4 May 1981 MPY-0019

Memorandum for: Director, FBIS

Through : Chief, Operations Group

Subject : Paraguay Bureau Monthly Report--April 1981

I. GENERAL

Paraguay's cost of living increased 10.2 percent in January/February 1981. The post was approved for a 5 percent cost of living allowance effective 22 March.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

- 1. A brief dissident seizure of a Santiago, Chile mediumwave radio station, Radio Portales, prompted extensive bureau efforts to intercept the transmission, but the brevity of the incident and poor middday reception frustrated the attempts.
- 2. Tension along the Chilean-Argentine border, including an Argentine closure of the border, drew much attention and generated considerable copy starting 29 April. There were fears of a recurrence of the 1979 military confrontation between the two countries.
- 3. A confrontation between former Bolivian President Hugo Banzer and the incumbent government at mid-month prompted fears that yet another coup was in the making. But President Luis Garcia Meza was able to assert his authority and place Banzer under house arrest. Here the situation stands at month's end.
- 4. An extensive new economic program by the Argentine government generated a number of complex economic items during April.

B. Communications

1. Sunspot activity disrupted reception of most high frequencies on April 9, 10 and 24 for an outage time of 6 and 1/2 hours.

	2. Buenos Aires LATIN experienced a 2-hour 15-minutes outage	on
21	April due to unknown causes, and a 1/2-hour outage on 22 April	due
to	problems with the New York relay.	

	3.	Para	aguay'	s	primar	У	comm	mi	catio	ons c	ircuit	was	out	for	2	hours
on					power											
du	ring	emer	gency	26	enerato	r	test:	ing								

	4.		changeover	of	satellites	on	29	Apřil	caused
a	planned	communications	outage of	3 ho	ours.			-	

III. ADMINISTRATIVE

A. Personnel

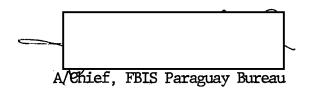
1,	Editor	arrived at post 2 April to replace	
	who depar	rted PCS in March.	

2. The bureau chief departed Asuncion on 19 April for private leave in the United States and to attend the bureau chiefs conference at headquarters.

B. Visitors

	1.		area	i hea	ad of	comm	mi	cations	s, ac	ccompanie	ed by
		visi	ted	the	burea	ı on	27	April	for	orientat	ion
and	briefing.										

2. Maj Jerry Dunbar, foreign area officer from Brasilia, was given a tour of the bureau on 30 April. He was accompanied by CW3 Burnis Back of the Defense Attache's Office.



CC.: Panama Bureau Attd: Eng. Report

Operations Attachment Monitor Production Report Monthly Production Report

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